

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208687
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 R

DRAFTED BY COM/OED/MEPD/JLSMITH/LW
APPROVED BY EB/O-A:WERAU
COM/OED/MEPDLENGSTON
COM/OTM/TBREWER)
ARA/ECPWSKOK -

-----121166 171644Z /46

R 171328Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: RAILROAD

REF: CARACAS 7440; SMITH-DUDLEY TELCON, AUGUST 10, 1978

1. INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION, AMERICAN WATERWAYS OPERATORS, INC., ADVISED USDOC/MEPD THAT NATIONAL AVERAGE COST OF BARGE TRANSPORTATION (INLAND AND COASTAL) IS FOUR TO FIVE MILLS (TENTHS OF CENTS) PER TON MILE WITH TRAFFIC IN "REGULATED COMMODITIES" (GENERALLY NON BULK ITEMS) AVERAGING FIVE TO SIX MILLS/TON MILE. SAME SOURCE CITES U.S. RAIL AVERAGE AT 22 MILLS/TON MILE BUT INDICATED THAT RAILROADS WITH ROUTES PARELLELLING INLAND WATERWAYS HAVE MUCH LOWER AVERAGE "CLOSER TO SIX TO SEVEN MILLS/TON MILE."

2. SUBSTANCE REFTEL PASSED TO MORRISON-KNUDSEN, BECHTEL,
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AND DELEUW, ALL OF WHICH OPERATE IN VENEZUELA AND WERE INTERESTED IN PROJECT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. RESPONSE FROM FIRMS WAS UNIFORMLY TEPID; ESPECIALLY WHEN MEPD STATED THAT NEITHER QUINTINI NOR IAAFE WERE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING PROFESSIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES. LACK OF ENTHUSIASM ALSO DUE WIDESPREAD PERCEPTION THAT SHORT

QUINTINI TENURE IN OFFICE (PARA FOUR REFTTEL) DOES NOT

MAKE HIM PRIME CANDIDATE FOR CULTIVATION THAT MIGHT LEAD
TO FUTURE BUSINESS.

3. AS INDICATED DURING REF TELCON, USDOC DOES NOT BELIEVE
APPROACH TO RAILROADS THAT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SELLING
SURPLUS CAR BARGES WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME SINCE
FIRMS THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE COST DATA TO
POTENTIAL CUSTOMER HAVE GENERALLY BEEN UNINTERESTED IN
DEVELOPING PRICING INFORMATION IN ABSENCE ACTUAL MARKET.

4. USDOC MAKING FURTHER INQUIRIES AMONG ADDITIONAL
POTENTIAL SOURCES OF COST DATA. PRODUCTIVE RESULTS WILL
BE TRANSMITTED AS RECEIVED.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780853/aaaabsau.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7d9dfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: MAJOR PROJECT: RAILROAD
TAGS: BENC, VE
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